



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

NOTIFICATION

The 18th August, 2021

No. CMS.102/2021/25. - Pursuant to approval of the Hon'ble Cabinet in its meeting held on 8th June, 2021, the Governor of Assam is pleased to notify the Guidelines for implementation of the scheme "Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme" under the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Govt. of Assam as below :-

CHIEF MINISTER'S SISHU SEVA SCHEME

1) Introduction :-

The Government of Assam has initiated a scheme to take care of the children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 has caused insurmountable misery to humankind. Many precious lives have been lost. Many people continue to suffer in hospitals. This has been the biggest human tragedy during our generation.

One of the biggest victims of COVID-19 are those children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19. With the rising death numbers, the cohort of such orphan children is unfortunately increasing. While we are making all efforts to contain the spread of virus, provide adequate treatment to COVID-19 patients and also have been undertaking large scale vaccination programme, it is our moral and social responsibility to take care of such orphans.

The scheme shall be implemented by the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

2) Objectives of "Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme" :-

The objectives of the scheme are:-

- i) To provide social and financial security to COVID-19 orphans.
- ii) To provide education with vocational training to COVID-19 orphans.
- iii) To provide a corpus of fund on attaining the age of maturity to help him/her pursue higher academic interests or set up a business/ enterprise as a means of livelihood.
- iv) To help these COVID-19 orphans pursue their dreams and realize their aims in life.

3) Scope of the scheme :-

The scheme will cover all orphans whose both parents died of COVID-19 in the First or Second waves as well as those, whose single surviving parent died of COVID-19 in the First or Second waves and those who may die of COVID-19 in future, subject to eligibility criteria mentioned at clause 5.

4) Benefits of the scheme :-

- i) Under the "Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme" orphans below 15 years of age, whose parents died of COVID-19 or whose single remaining parent died of COVID-19, will be provided a monthly financial support upto the age of 24 years, when a corpus of fund will be provided to establish himself/herself in any career or vocation.
- ii) Upkeep and educational expenditure of COVID-19 orphans below 15 years who may not have an extended family/ guardian, in one of the Child Care Institutions.
- iii) Proper accommodation for COVID-19 orphaned adolescent girls/ boys in suitable reputed institutions to ensure their sensitive care and proper protection. One such institution for girls is Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) residential school, under Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Assam or other residential academic institutions.
- iv) In case of COVID-19 orphan girls, who are of marriageable age and have lost their parents due to COVID-19, State Government will extend a one-time financial package for purchase of one tola of gold under Arundhati Gold Scheme at the time of marriage.
- v) 1 (One) laptop/ tablet to school/ college going orphan or orphan undergoing vocational training.
- vi) Skill based vocational training to all such COVID-19 orphan students.

All the benefits mentioned above are subject to eligibility criteria mentioned at clause 5.

5 (a) Eligibility criteria :-

The beneficiary shall fulfill the following criteria :-

- i) The beneficiary should be a permanent resident of Assam.
- ii) Both the parents of COVID orphans should have died due to COVID-19 or if one parent passed away earlier, the single remaining parent should have died due to COVID-19, as certified by the State Level COVID Death Audit Board.

- iii) To obtain financial assistance under the "Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme", the beneficiary must be a COVID orphan below 15 years of age on date of expiry of sole remaining parent.
- iv) For marriage assistance to COVID orphan girls under the Arundhati Gold Scheme, the girl must be above the age of 18 years and below 24 years.
- v) The beneficiary must belong to low-income family having an annual income below Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

5(b) Quantum of Assistance :-

- i) The quantum of assistance under the scheme for COVID orphans below 15 years of age staying with an extended family or guardian is a monthly financial assistance of Rs. 3500/- upto the age of 24 years being the interest on a fixed deposit (FD) of Rs. 7,81,200/-. On attaining the age of 24 years the principal amount will be transferred to the beneficiary's savings account.
- ii) In case of COVID orphans below 15 years of age who do not have an extended family or guardian, State Government will take steps to house them in one of the Child Care Institutions and provide monthly financial assistance of Rs. 3500/- upto the age of 24 years, being the interest accrued on a fixed deposit of Rs. 7,81,200/- in the name of the orphan. The monthly assistance will be deposited into their savings account. On attaining the age of 18 years, unless they are put in After Care programme by Juvenile Justice Board or Child Welfare Committee for another 3 years, they will be on their own and allowed to operate their savings account. At the age of 24 years, the principal amount will be transferred to their savings account. Such orphaned children/ adolescent girls/ boys will be given accommodation by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) in suitable reputed Child Care Institution arranged by Social Welfare Department and registered under the relevant provision of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. They will be lodged subject to availability of suitable CCI including SOS children's village in the same district or nearby CCI will be preferred, so that the child can continue education in the same school. To ensure the sensitive care and proper protection of adolescent boys/girls, they will be lodged in reputed institutions e.g. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) residential schools for girls under Sarba Siksha Abhiyan or other residential academic institutions. KGBV shall give priority for admission to COVID orphans.
- iii) A laptop/ tablet to all school/ college going selected beneficiaries.
- iv) In case of COVID orphan girls, who are of marriageable age and above 18 years and below 24 years of age, State Government will provide a one-time financial package for purchase of one tola of gold under Arundhati Gold Scheme at the time of marriage, for which an amount of Rs. 50,000/- will be given to each such girl. Any COVID orphan girl below 15 years of age receiving financial assistance as per 5(b)(i) and 5(b)(iii) above will also be eligible for marriage assistance when she attains the age of marriage.
- v) All selected COVID orphan beneficiaries shall be provided skill based vocational training.

6) Selection of the Beneficiaries :-

- i) The Deputy Commissioner as Chairman of the District Child Protection Committee shall be responsible for selection of beneficiaries. The process of selection shall be carried out with the help of the following agencies as enumerated below :
 - a) The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) headed by the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) under the Social Welfare Department, shall collect the information, relevant documents / COVID death certificate etc. from the Government authorized sources and the DCPO will produce the orphan children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
 - b) The Child Welfare Committee shall ask for a Social Investigation Report (SIR) and proper Individual Care Plan (ICP) from the DCPO.
 - c) After receiving all the legal documents, Social Investigation Report (SIR) and Individual Care Plan (ICP), the Child Welfare Committee shall prepare detailed report with a recommendation to the Deputy Commissioner concerned as Chairman of District Child Protection Committee.
- ii) After receiving a report with recommendation from the Child Welfare Committee, the Deputy Commissioner shall also consult the NHM database of COVID victims and verify whether the beneficiary is eligible for the financial assistance as per eligibility criteria given at Clause 5. The Deputy Commissioner, after being satisfied with authenticity of the beneficiary, shall approve and issue the Certificate (enclosed as Annexure – I) that the child has fulfilled all eligibility criteria under the CM's Sishu Seva Scheme.

7) Documents required :-

- i) Certification by Deputy Commissioners that the beneficiary fulfills each of the eligibility criteria in the format given in Annexure-I.
- ii) Bank details of the beneficiary e.g. Account No., Bank Name & Branch, IFSC.

8) Implementation :-

After approving and issuing the Certificate in Annexure – I, the Deputy Commissioner shall then compile the list of such eligible beneficiaries and upload the names and particulars of the beneficiaries and their bank details along with the certificate as stated in clause 7, in the portal **<https://cmcovidsupport.assam.gov.in>**.

The nodal agency for implementation of the scheme will be the Chief Minister's Secretariat which will implement the various components of the scheme in coordination with the agencies of Administrative Departments concerned, so that the benefits can be dovetailed with the existing schemes for smooth delivery of the benefits.

On receipt of the list of beneficiaries from the respective Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Minister's Secretariat shall obtain approval of the competent authority for the following:-

- i) Sanction of financial assistance to the beneficiaries who are staying with their extended family/ guardian.
- ii) Sanction of financial assistance for those beneficiaries without an extended family/ guardian and who are taken care of by the Deputy Commissioner through the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) and District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) for housing them in Child Care Institutions(CCI) including adolescent girls/ boys who will be housed in suitable reputed institutions. The Social Welfare Department through the DSWO and DCPO shall arrange for uninterrupted schooling in the same school that the orphan was studying in. If the orphan is to be shifted to another place for lodging in a CCI, then it will be ensured that he/she is immediately admitted in a school of the same standard, in the new location.

For (i) and (ii) above, the expenditure for financial assistance shall be borne from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the benefit will be provided in coordination with Social Welfare Department, which shall provide for maintenance, upkeep and education of the orphan lodged in CCI. Social Welfare Department shall issue a notification accordingly.

- iii) For marriage assistance to girls, the benefit shall be provided by Deputy Commissioner in coordination with Director of Land Records cum Inspector General of Registration under Revenue (Registration) & DM Department. Such eligible girls, on their applying for Registration of Marriage under the Special Marriage Act 1954 or Hindu Marriage Act 1955 before the Marriage Registering Officer (Deputy Registrar/ Sr. Sub-Registrar/ Sub-Registrar), shall be assisted to apply online for Arundhati Gold Scheme. On their online application being approved by the Director of Land Records cum Inspector General of Registration, a financial assistance of Rs. 50,000/- shall be transferred to their accounts by Direct Benefit Transfer on registration of their marriage. The Revenue (Registration) & DM Department shall issue a notification accordingly.
- iv) For laptops/ tablets to school/ college going child or child undergoing vocational training, the benefit shall be provided by the Director of Secondary Education under Secondary Education Department in coordination with AMTRON. The Secondary Education Department shall issue a notification for providing laptops to COVID orphans from Anundoram Borooah Award funds as well as for providing skill based education to such orphans, as well as for lodging COVID orphan adolescent girls without extended family or guardian in KGBV under SSA or other residential academic institutions on priority.
- v) For school/college going children, skill based vocational training will be provided and all such students shall be linked to skill based education. The Director of Secondary Education shall tie-up

with the Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department, more specifically with the Mission Director, Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) and Director of Employment & Craftsman Training for extending skill based training to the beneficiaries of this scheme. The Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department shall issue a notification providing for skill based vocational training to such COVID orphans in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and training programmes under Assam Skill Development Mission, on priority.

9) Funding :-

- i) In case of financial assistance to orphans staying with extended family/ guardian or orphans staying in CCI and not supported under any existing scheme, the funding for the scheme will be borne out of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The fund available under Chief Minister's Relief Fund will be supplemented by Grants-in-Aid from the Government of Assam from time to time as may be required to extend the benefits. A bank fixed deposit (FD) for Rs. 7,81,200/- will be opened in the name of the child, and an amount of Rs.3500/- being the monthly interest accrued, will be credited to the child's Savings Bank account every month by direct bank transfer upto the time the child attains 24 years of age, when the principal amount will be transferred to the beneficiary's savings account.

Maintenance and upkeep of orphans in Child Care Institutions will be borne by Social Welfare Department, while that in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya or other residential academic institutions shall be borne by Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) under Secondary Education Department.

- ii) For marriage assistance to girls of marriageable age, a one-time financial package of Rs. 50,000/- will be given by the Director of Land Records cum Inspector General of Registration under Revenue (Registration) & DM Department to each eligible beneficiary for purchase of one tola of gold under Arundhati Gold Scheme.
- iii) A laptop/tablet to all school/college going COVID orphans or those undergoing vocational training to be provided by the Director of Secondary Education under Secondary Education Department from the funds under Anundoram Borooah Award.
- iv) Skill based training to school/college going student beneficiaries shall be provided from the funds at the disposal of the Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department through the Director of Employment & Craftsman Training and the Mission Director, Assam Skill Development Mission in co-ordination with the Director of Secondary Education.

10) Monitoring and Follow-up :-

- a) There shall be a State Level Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of Seniormost Secretary to Chief Minister with the Seniormost Secretaries of Revenue & DM, Secondary Education, Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship, Health & Family Welfare and Social Welfare

Departments as members. The Secretary to Chief Minister (Vertical 3 looking after Social Welfare Department) shall be the Member Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee shall sit at least twice every year to review and monitor the scheme. The Chairman of the Committee shall furnish a report on the performance of the scheme to the Hon'ble Chief Minister within two weeks of the meeting, for favour of his perusal as well as seek his further guidance and advice on the implementation of the scheme.

- b) The Deputy Commissioner, also being the Chairperson of the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC), constituted vide Social Welfare Department notification No. SWD.168/2009/pt-I/305 dt. 12/07/2010 to act as Nodal Agency for implementation of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in the respective districts, shall be responsible for the monitoring of welfare measures undertaken for the proper care and upbringing of the COVID orphans in the district as per the following:-
- i) Home Management Committee constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act, chaired by District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) shall meet quarterly to review entire facilities to be provided to children in institutional care, as per the provisions laid down in the Rules and Section of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Committee will recommend and suggest the Home authority to maintain the standard of care and protection.
 - ii) Child Welfare Committee constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act shall hold their sitting minimum once in a month in the respective child care home to interact with the children, to know the children's requirements, progress of children and to review other pending issues. The Committee will submit report to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) on quarterly basis as competent authority of the children in need of care and protection.
 - iii) District Level Inspection Committee (DLIC) constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act, headed by DC or his representative shall inspect the documentation related to the children, food-nutrition, children budget, educational, vocational, medical and health including issues related to physical infrastructure of the Home. The Committee may recommend the State Government for improvement of quality care services.
 - iv) State Level Inspection Committee (SLIC) constituted under the Act also shall inspect the Child Care Home as per their feasibility using the prescribed inspection tools for CCIs.
 - v) The Redressal Committee constituted in DCPU level to deal with the issues related to violation of Child rights and any kind of abuse of children in CCIs, shall hold sitting on a regular interval or in emergency call.

- vi) The Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) shall visit and inspect the functioning of CCIs to ensure the quality care of the children in CCIs and to protect the rights of the children in CCIs.
 - vii) The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) as a legal body shall also keep the CCIs in their surveillance. The DLSA will provide free legal services to the children in CCIs in case of protecting the Rights of the Child as given by United Nations Child Rights Convention.
 - viii) Proper Counseling is to be provided to the orphan children as and when required by the Counselor of the DCPU and CCI respectively.
 - ix) The orphan children staying with Guardians/extended families/ Caretaker will be monitored and follow up action taken by the DCPU/ Protection Officer Non Institutional Care (PO NIC) at a regular interval of 3 months.
 - x) CWC in coordination with the DCPO and Police shall take adequate steps for protection of assets and other properties of the orphan children.
 - xi) District level Education Department will follow up the orphan children residing in the Government residential schools like KGBV/JNV etc as well as support them in acquiring a skill based vocational training with the help of ASDM and ITIs.
 - xii) DCPU shall submit monthly progress report to the State Child Protection Society (SCPS) under Social Welfare Department. The SCPS under the chairmanship of the Senior most Secretary Social Welfare Department, which is tasked with implementation of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in the State, shall coordinate with all Government Departments and NGOs providing supporting services for children and their effective convergence for proper implementation of the Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme.
- 11) Grievance Redressal :-
- i) There shall be a Grievance Redressal Officer at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, not below the rank of Secretary to Chief Minister, as the Nodal Officer, who shall address all grievances regarding implementation of the scheme, either directly on receipt of complaint from any individual or organization, or on receipt of grievances forwarded by the respective Deputy Commissioners from the Districts. The Nodal Officer shall be notified accordingly by Chief Minister's Secretariat.
 - ii) The Deputy Commissioner will be the Grievance Redressal Authority at the District level.

SAMIR KUMAR SINHA,
Principal Secretary to Chief Minister,
Chief Minister's Secretariat.

ANNEXURE – I

Certificate under Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme

Certified that Master/Ms, orphan of Late, resident of, fulfills the eligibility criteria prescribed in the guidelines for Chief Minister's Sishu Seva Scheme on the following grounds :-

- a) The beneficiary is a permanent resident of district of Assam.
- b) The beneficiary's parents/single surviving parent died with COVID positive status at the time of death as certified by the State Level COVID Death Audit Board.
- c) The beneficiary is below 15 years of age / The beneficiary is a girl above 18 years and below 24 years of age (for financial assistance for marriage under Arundhati Gold Scheme).
- d) The beneficiary has an extended family or guardian to live with / The beneficiary does not have an extended family or guardian to live with and is presently housed in a Child Care Institution.
- e) The beneficiary belongs to a low-income family having an annual income below Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

Deputy Commissioner